

Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

U.S. Support for NPT Article IV

UNITED STATES & GABON

Through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United States contributes to the work of many countries using nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes. In recent years, U.S. support has focused on achieving tangible and lasting benefits in fields that are vital to human development, including agriculture, human health, water resource management, and human resource development. Since 2000, the IAEA has approved and funded \$1,971,593, including \$78,433 in 2013, under its Technical Cooperation (TC) program for projects in Gabon.

The United States views its support for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a critical part of its efforts to strengthen the IAEA and the global nuclear

nonproliferation regime. About 25% of the IAEA's annual budget for peaceful nuclear assistance comes from the U.S. In 2012, the U.S. contributed almost \$22 million to the Technical Cooperation Fund and over \$6 million in additional funding for training, fellowships, and cost-free experts.

In addition to these longstanding contributions to the IAEA's peaceful uses programs, at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the U.S. announced a \$100 million Initiative to further expand this support over the next five years. The U.S. pledged \$50 million towards the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), focusing on human health, food security, water resource management, and nuclear power infrastructure development. The U.S. has already allocated over \$27 million to specific PUI projects, and welcomes the contributions of Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Australia, France, Indonesia, Brazil, Italy, the UK and Kazakhstan to this important Initiative.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Surging interest in nuclear energy has created new challenges for African countries with uranium resources and other radioactive ores as many lack legislative frameworks for regulating activities related to uranium exploration and exploitation in order to protect their interests, the environment and the public at large. Gabon is currently participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the United States to strengthen participating countries' capabilities for effective and efficient management of these resources, as well as to build the legislative framework to effectively regulate related activities.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Nuclear technology has great potential to help shape the future of developing countries, but is not without some risk. In recognition of this, Gabon recently participated in a regional TC project funded by the United States to strengthen national regulatory infrastructures for the control of radiation sources. Gabon currently participates in another regional TC project, also funded by the United States, to maintain these infrastructures and enhance their effectiveness and sustainability. Self-assessment and regional networking can also significantly strengthen national regulatory infrastructures, so Gabon is currently participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the United States to improve the performance of regulatory systems and conform to the requirements of international standards through self-assessment and enhanced regional cooperation.

Through additional U.S.-sponsored regional TC projects, Gabon is also currently working to strengthen occupational radiation protection, radiation protection of patients during medical exposure, as well as control of public exposures.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Radiation emergencies not only risk injury to individuals, but can also contaminate large territories and affect the living conditions of communities. Gabon is currently participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the United States to strengthen participating countries' national arrangements for response to radiological and nuclear emergencies and improve their compliance with international standards.



1. *International radiation measurement exercise. Credit: Dean Calma/IAEA*
2. *Nuclear power plant. Credit: Petr Pavlicek/IAEA*

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